

Jefferson Morley - The CIA and the Culture of Secrecy HD

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"We have a new fact pattern about the JFK story that demands attention. This fact pattern is both growing in scope and detail over time... I think what we are doing is, we are getting to the point where we can describe a fact pattern rather than argue about theories, and we can transcend the old lone nut/conspiracy debate."
Jefferson Morley

Author and former Washington Post reporter, Jefferson Morley, is the moderator of JFK Facts and plaintiff in the lawsuit, Morley v. CIA, seeking release of long-secret JFK records. Morley is a 25-year veteran of Washington journalism who has worked as an editor and/or journalist at The New Republic, The Nation, and Spin Magazine, before going to the Washington Post in 1992. He has written extensively about the Central Intelligence Agency, George H.W. Bush, Central American death squads and the Iran-contra affair. His reporting has also appeared in The New York Review of Books, Readers Digest, The New York Times Book Review, Rolling Stone, The New Republic, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times, The American Prospect, and Salon, among others. His book "Our Man in Mexico: Winston Scott and the Hidden History of the CIA" was published in 2007. Morley has taken a keen interest in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and is the author of several articles on the subject. He is the plaintiff in a lawsuit against the CIA, demanding the release of records pertaining to CIA officer George Joannides who was called out of retirement in the 1970s to serve as liaison with the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Unknown to the HSCA, Joannides had in 1963 been the case officer for the Student Revolutionary Directorate, the Cuban exile group with whom Lee Harvey Oswald had multiple interactions in New Orleans.

<http://www.jfkfacts.org>

http://www.amazon.com/Jefferson-Morley/e/B001ILHJ9K/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

Conversations with Jeff Morley may be heard at <http://www.jfkconversations.com>

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it's time for me to introduce one of my favorite JFK scholars he is the host along with our friend Rex Bradford from Mary Farrell Foundation of JFK facts dot org he is the author of 2011's snowstorm in August which is a fascinating story pertaining to President Andrew Jackson and Francis Scott Key about whom many bad things could be said and he's the author of this book our man in Mexico Winston Scott in the hidden history of the CIA one of the essential books published I think in the last number of decades it's my pleasure to introduce Jefferson Morley Thank You Allen thanks everybody for coming here it's great to see so many friends in one place it's a little terrifying to think how long I've known some of you but I'm very excited about attending the conference I think it promises I think we've already seen that it that it is extraordinary thanks to the efforts of Jim and Jerry and I think what's most out of the ordinary for me about this conference is I think the the coherence of the program too often when I go to JFK conferences the results leave my head spinning what happened who how do you know that too many theories too many characters I came away from one JFK conference and the best coverage was really in the onion President shot 129

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really in the onion President shot 129 times from 43 angles so I know that's not what happened but that was the impression that was left I don't get that feeling at this conference I'm getting a feeling of convergence and transition I actually think we're getting closer to identifying the the cause is the causal chain of events that led to the assassination of President Kennedy we've already seen in the conference that we're getting a more granular understanding of the role of certain CIA officers in those events thanks to the work of Bill sympathy and John Newman we have a much deeper understanding the role of the counterintelligence staff in the monitoring of Lee Oswald before the assassination thanks to Dan hard way at Lopez and Bob Blakey we have a clear understanding of how and why the HSC a investigation was thwarted and thanks to an Tonio vasana coming here to tell his very important story of working with the CIA in miami in 1963 what's exciting I think about these findings is that rather than contradicting each other they are mutually reinforce each other they all shed light on the key outstanding question that was raised by Dan hardway what is the CIA seeking to hide about its secret psychological warfare and counterintelligence operations in 1963 we don't have all the answers to that question but I think we're getting more and more of them it is painstaking work let me tell you one example that I came across in my own work and of course of my lawsuit we obtained documents from the CIA a big batch of documents from the Joanie's administrative file and there were two documents in there that especially interested me there was a form that Joanne Dedes had filled out and signed twice in the spring of 1964 once in April and once in May on the form signed by Joanna DS his home residence was identified as New Orleans and so we

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identified as New Orleans and so we brought this into court and in court Jim Lazar argued on my behalf that these documents showed that Joanna DS had traveled to New Orleans as part of his official duties at the very time that the Warren Commission was investigating the d-r-e in New Orleans Jim cited these documents as - as a testifying to their significance and he wanted the court to understand their significance the government responded very forcefully anaphor a sworn affidavit US attorney Ron munch and denied that the document was related to join his travel he didn't explain what the document was we and we still don't know exactly but he said and I quote New Orleans has clearly listed as Joanna T's place of residence when on home leave and the form does not put him in New Orleans on the dates cited by the plaintiff what machen didn't know was joiny these family lived in Miami he's listed in the in the Miami phonebook in 1963 his children attended school in Miami so much and thought that Joe and Edie's actually lived in New Orleans or that's where he went when he wasn't working he didn't know that that wasn't the case and so I pointed that out in in a legal brief last it was filed in response to him later in November and he responded a few a week later with a slightly different story and this is what he said Morley's claims of purported new information that Joe and edie's traveled to and those are in quotes travel to or lived in New Orleans during the time that he monitored Oswald are false and inaccurate so now we have the government's story which is this we can summarize it this way joy needies maintained a home residence in New Orleans but he never traveled there and he never lived there clearly we are in need of more clarity on this question that's why I think we're those are the sorts of questions that remain to be answered but those are the things that the kind of detail that we are now getting at for me it's gratifying and exciting to see that joiny these figures and what we what we

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joiny these figures and what we what we are learning I never thought he was a prime mover or a rogue agent in the events of 1963 rather I thought what was most interesting about him was that he was a representative figure doing the bidding of his superiors what we are now learning that this conference shows the depth of that story and brings us I think to the verge of a remarkable development John Newman's story about Toni's fours in the handling of Rolando Cabella and the Greek case officer involved in the recruiting of Rolando Cabella we may be discovering and I don't want to since I haven't had time to look at all the documents under these sits I don't want to overstate or draw conclusions yet but we may be discovering that two threads of the JFK story the emergence of Oswald as a pro-castro activist in 1963 which is publicized by the Cuban

by the d-r-e in New Orleans and the recruiting of Burrell and rubella passed through the same office in the Miami station Tony Sforza worked in the psychological warfare branch of the of the JM wave station in 1963 when George Joe and edie's was the chief and this is something that adds credibility to the notion that the Greek that Joann Dedes was the Greek case officer who took over handling aspects of the q bella recruitment from swor za because they worked in the same office I'm not gonna draw conclusions about that but suffice it to say for right now we have a fact pattern about the JFK story we have a new fact pattern about the JFK story that that demands attention let me just talk a little bit about that and that this fact pattern is both growing in scope in detail over time this is not a dead end the more we learn everything the new things that we learn add to this fact pattern and make it make its significance greater so I think what we are doing is we are getting to the point where we can describe a fact pattern

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where we can describe a fact pattern rather than argue about theories and we can transcend the old lone nut' conspiracy debate I think we are getting to what I call JFK 3.0 but my subject today is CIA and the culture of secrecy and so I want to talk a little bit about that and how that relates to what I've talked to so far I think in addition to uncovering the full record of JFK's assassination we need to understand and explain why the events of 1963 are relevant in 2014 if you look around this room you can see we clearly need a narrative of the assassination story that is relevant to young people and we don't have it yet what is our situation today we find ourselves living in a warlike state with a powerful national security agencies often acting beyond the limits of the law at least as the law is understood in a in a democracy how did we get here how did a massive government's a surveillance program grow up beyond the view of the people how did our national security state become so powerful I think with the benefit of the hindsight we can see that the publication of the Warren Commission report was a signal mome in the growth and consolidation of this national this secret national security state it was the moment it was not obvious at the time but it was the moment when the national security agencies demonstrated the ability to spare themselves from accountability for a national catastrophe I constantly marvel and I think we don't emphasize the point enough in the JFK community the president united states was shot dead in broad daylight that's astonishing enough and no one was brought to justice for the crime that's astonishing too but the third thing that I think is most astonishing we need to talk about more is nobody nobody lost their job so no think about it no matter how you measure it no matter who who you think was responsible the president United States getting killed in broad daylight is a failure given how much the

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daylight is a failure given how much the CIA knew about Oswald it can plausibly be called a CIA intelligence failure and yet no one at the CIA lost their job or was even demoted it's worth noting the one qualification to this is j edgar hoover did discipline a number of agents for their actions on behalf of the FBI before the assassination and I think Hoover understood where his vulnerabilities were and I think if we study who those FBI agents were and what they did that Hoover sanctioned them for I think we get clues to understanding what he was so concerned about and where the CIA's vulnerabilities lie I'm not going to talk about that now but again this is a this is where our research is converging on a small group of officers reporting to dick Helms and James angleton exclusively the people who knew about Oswald before the assassination and who concealed all that they knew from investigators afterwards the identity of these officers and their roles is important to us and to history but what matters today I think is the power their power to defy accountability by a secrecy justified on national security grounds that power is still wielded by the CIA and intelligence agencies to this day we should take note I think that the most effective check on the power of these agencies in recent years has come from two sources WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden and what these two sources have in common is sources of information have in common is they are both exemplars of online civil society that is to say ordinary citizens empowered by the Internet and I think that's a lesson we need to learn let's talk about JFK in

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need to learn let's talk about JFK in the language of the digital age JFK 1.0 dropped 50 years ago this week in contemporary terms we might say it was a government-sponsored data dump accompanied by a top-down narrative generated by state agencies Dallas Police Department J Edgar Hoover's FBI Lyndon Johnson's White House with a little help from the Secret Service in the CIA the meme of a lone gunman was then blessed by various mainstream media gatekeepers at old media institutions like the New York Times The Washington Post and CBS News JFK 2.0 was dropped in December 1991 by Hollywood director Oliver Stone his epic movie was a counter myth of Dallas depicting JFK as a champion of peace betrayed by a patriotic cabal and Jim Garrison was portrayed as a crusading truth-teller the film was a box office and critical smash in contemporary lingo we could say that Stone's film got massively downloaded into the American imagination JFK 1.0 users had lost their monopoly on the story they were disturbed by the popularity of JFK 2.0 and attacked stone with unusual ferocity while JFK 1.0 retained its core audience the multitudes in the multiplex generally preferred JFK 2.0 and they mocked JFK 1.0 statesmen like Arlen Specter and Gerald Ford with unusual Glee and that's where we were stuck until the internet came along or rather until a programming genius named Rex Bradford set up his website Mary Farrell comments started putting the most important 1 million JFK documents online note that this historical the real historical record of JFK's assassination was not made publicly available by the government the National Archives website has a couple of hundred JFK documents online less than 0.1% of what Mary

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online less than 0.1% of what Mary Farrell has the historical record of JFK's assassination was not made universally available by the press that is to say major news organizations the best websites devoted to the JFK assassination are probably the Dallas Morning News and PBS Frontline they're both organized around narrow interpretations of Kennedy's assassination and they're almost wholly ignorant of the information that has come into the public record over the last 10 years so what we have in JFK 3.0 which is where we are now is an unprecedented development now anybody anywhere can get access to the original record of the assassination or most of it that is that has never been true over the past 50 years and has only started to be true since Mary Farrell started in the recently and it's only going to become more true as time passes so as I said the gatekeepers have lost their monopoly on the story and I think this fact is going to shape this understanding of JFK's assassination going forward this iteration of the store of the of JFK's assassination will not be told by Washington insiders like it was in the Warren Commission and it won't be told and by Hollywood myth makers as it was in Stone's JFK this iteration of the JFK story is going to be told by online civil society call me a techno utopian but I think online civil society is going to do a better job of telling the story than the previous actors JFK 3.0 is gonna be told in a new way and I think the older generations got to understand that it's going to be crowd-sourced it's going to be distributed and curated online it's going to rely on the wisdom of crowds it's the end of the old keeper system is going to introduce us a new way of that public knowledge and and consciousness is formed and we have to

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consciousness is formed and we have to pay attention to that also if you think of the technological tools that are now available as a result of the digital revolution I think we're going to have new ways of analyzing the old evidence and I think we need to think about that in the future I know some of you are probably getting very skeptical at this point and saying the the Internet is gonna give us the truth really what are you talking about the Internet is full of crap about JFK from whack jobs in Alex Jones land to the fulminate suppressor McAdams and I would say it's true that the Internet is conventionally divided on the JFK story if you read the Wikipedia entry on JFK's assassination for example you will find that it's basically a JFK 1.0 narrative there's a lot of JFK 2.0 people out there especially on Facebook you know that's where you can friend a friendly friend from New Zealand who knows a lot about the CIA and that's an unprecedented source of information um Twitter Twitter thinks JFK is an airport nonetheless I'm confident that the potential of the Internet to enhance the collective understanding of this formative event has just begun to be tapped let me just decide a couple points there one people in the online world have the same data wants to be free and I think if data wants to be free no data wants to be free like JFK assassination data look how much of it we have and

people ask well you know why do you think that the CIA is gonna disclose something you know incriminating in the documents that they have it released or are going to release and I'd point when people ask me that I point out to them and say you know they were forced to release this stuff they did not want to release this stuff precisely because they knew that there might be incriminating material in it and people might be able to do what they call the mosaic approach piece

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they call the mosaic approach piece things together and understand how CIA operations work but as we've seen at this conference that is exactly what has happened second in historical perspective you know people say oh God you know we've been talking about this for 50 years you know I've been talking about it for about 30 you know it's pretty discouraging but in the historical perspective that's not a long time for a great historical prime to be resolved it isn't considered that the scandalous story of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings for a hundred and eighty years academic historians in Washington journalists were unanimous and they scoffed at those pathetic souls who believed the ridiculous story that the founding father had an african-american mistress these lofty pundits proclaimed the truth and denounced the people in much the same language that we hear Warren Commission critics described to this day rumour mongers with an unpatriotic agenda that harms you know American civic life and then in the 1980's DNA science came along when the testing of Sally Hemings descendants showed that Jefferson was almost certainly the father of her children the official story of a hundred and eighty years evaporated it's gone nobody believes it anymore and the truth emerged such clarity about the causes of President Kennedy's death are not inevitable I'm not saying that but with JFK 3.0 and with Internet technology I think it's I've got to believe that it's at least possible so let's recap JFK 1.0 was a government release it told us that a crazy man shot the president for no reason and then another crazy man shot him the hashtags on this message were tragic story trust us JFK 2.0 was a Hollywood release it told us Oswald was the Patsy of Kennedy's right-wing enemies in the CIA and the Pentagon and the hashtags were

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Pentagon and the hashtags were conspiracy and up the establishment JFK 3.0 is the story of online civil society it tells us Kennedy's death was a massive failure of on the part of US institution that requires explanation to each new generations of Americans and the hashtags our accountability and full disclosure where does this leave the perennial kin Spira see discussion I personally hope that JFK 3.0 will relegate it to history JFK conspiracy afk conspiracy theories are what people talk about when they don't know or don't want to talk about the historical record and especially the historical records that is that has emerged in recent years we don't need to theorize about the new JFK fact pattern we need to describe it we need to organize it and we need to make it accessible online to the next generation I think we're making an important step in that direction this weekend in so doing I also think that JFK 3.0 will shed light on the origins of the secret national security state that is still with us thank you

END